

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

PHONE: (617) 253-1000

Dr. Harmon C. McAllister
Associate Research Director
The Council for Tobacco Research
900 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10022

December 8, 1989

Dear Dr. McAllister:

This summer some 150 scientists will gather at Saxtons River, Vermont for a summer conference on "Virus Assembly" to be held under the auspices of the Federation of American Societies of Experimental Biology (FASEB) from July 15 to July 20,

This conference will bring together into a single meeting leading investigators of the assembly and maturation of animal, plant and bacterial viruses. Though considerable progress has been made in defining the mature structure of animal and plant virions, much less is known of the intracellular processes whereby newly synthesized macromolecules are assembled into infectious highly organized virion particles. The last conference focused on this topic was an EMBO meeting held seven years ago in 1982.

Recent exciting findings include the role of chaperonins in structural protein maturation, identification of sequences controlling nucleic acid packaging, phosphorylation and myristylation of viral structural subunits, non conservation of symmetry in polyoma, and interference of the products of cloned genes with virus infection. These and other results indicate the need to examine and integrate what is known of the processes of the intracellular assembly of infectious virions from their constituent macromolecules.

We believe that the assembly of virions within cells is likely to be an important target for therapeutic intervention. In addition understanding the transformations viral proteins undergo during maturation and assembly into infectious virions is important for the development of new and novel vaccines, and for development of diagnostic tools.

The initial program is enclosed. All of the speakers listed have expressed enthusiasm for participating in the meeting. Poster sessions will ensure maximal communication of results.

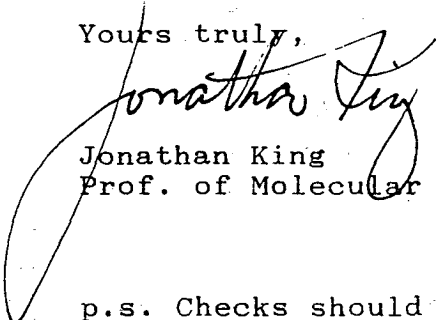
among attendees and presentation of late breaking or newly developing investigations.

FASEB has provided core support for the meeting. We currently need to raise an additional \$12,000 for travel subsidies to ensure that our key speakers can attend the meeting, as well as some junior scientists whose work is important and will be presented in the poster sessions.

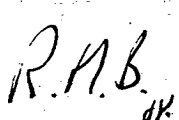
We are writing to ask if your firm would be willing to contribute to the support of the conference. Contributors will be listed in the program distributed at the meeting and will also receive the list of poster presentations and presenters, together with the final meeting program.

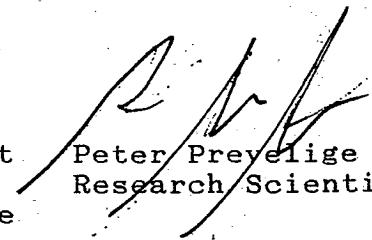
If you would like more details about the meeting please feel free to contact Jonathan King at 617 253 4700.

Yours truly,



Jonathan King
Prof. of Molecular Biology


Roger M. Burnett
Professor
Wistar Institute



Peter Prevedige
Research Scientist

p.s. Checks should be annotated "Virus Assembly" and made payable to: FASEB

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